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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/560,371	01/16/2007	Alan Cuthbertson	PZ0382	3817
36335	7590	01/07/2009	EXAMINER	
GE HEALTHCARE, INC.			RAO, SAVITHA M	
IP DEPARTMENT				
101 CARNEGIE CENTER			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
PRINCETON, NJ 08540-6231			1614	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			01/07/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/560,371 SAVITHA RAO	CUTHBERTSON ET AL. Art Unit 1614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 October 2008.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3,11,12,14,15,32 and 34-36 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-2, 4-10, 13, 16-31 and 33 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-36 are pending.

Receipt and consideration of Applicants' amended claim set and remarks/arguments mailed on October 7th 2008 is acknowledged. Claims 8, 22 and 34-36 were amended and claims 3, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 32 were withdrawn.

Rejection of instant claims 34-36 under 35 U.S.C.112 second paragraph as being indefinite for providing the use of the imaging agent was an inadvertent error by the Examiner. Examiner mistakenly used the original claims 34-36 as filed on 12/12/2005 (7 pages, has the WO 2005/049005 as the header) instead of the amended claim set filed on the same date 12/12/2005 (9 pages, no header) to make this rejection. The rejection is accordingly withdrawn.

Amended claims 34-36 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: The original claims 34-36 in the amended claim set filed on 12/12/2005 were drawn towards an imaging agent and the currently amended claims 34-36 in the amendment filed on 10/07/2008 are drawn towards a method of diagnostic imaging of atherosclerosis and unstable plaques and towards a method of intravascular detection of atherosclerosis,

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claim 34-36 withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claims under consideration in the instant office action are claims 1-2, 4-10, 13, 16-31 and 33.

Applicants' arguments, filed 10/07/2008, have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous office actions are hereby withdrawn. The following rejections and/or objections are either reiterated or newly applied. They constitute the complete set presently being applied to the instant application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

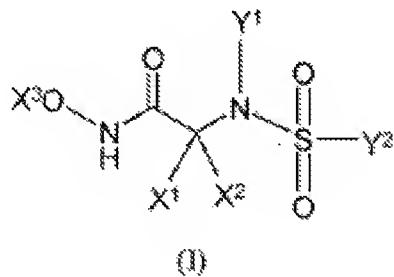
The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Rejection of claims 1-2, 4-10, 13, 16-31 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carpenter et al (WO 01/60416) or Mobashery (WO 01/92244) in view of Sahagan (EP 1088550, referenced in the IDS) **is maintained** for reasons of record restated below.

Amendment of instant claims 8 and 22 did not change the scope of the claims but clarified the antecedent basis of “the radioactive metal ion or paramagnetic metal ion” recited in the claims. The subject matter of these claims did not change and accordingly, they remain properly rejected by the rejection below as originally rejected in the office action of 07/08/2008.

The instant claims are drawn towards an imaging agent which comprises a metalloproteinase inhibitor of formula (I) labeled with an imaging moiety which can be detected following administration of said labeled matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor to the mammalian body *in vivo*.



Further limitations include, the imaging agent wherein the imaging moiety is chosen from a radioactive metal ion, paramagnetic metal ion etc (instant claim 5, 8-13), imaging agent is of formula II (instant claims 6-7), a pharmaceutical composition of the imaging agent of claim 1 (instant claims 18-21), A conjugate of the MMP of formula (I) with a

ligand (claims 22-26) and a kit for the preparation of the radiopharmaceutical composition (claims 27-33).

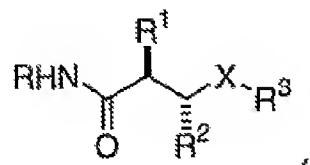
With reference to instant claims 34-36, applicant is claiming the imaging agent of Claim 1, the limitation wherein the imaging agent is used for the diagnosis of atherosclerosis, unstable plaques or intravascular diseases are intended uses of the imaging agent and will be given little patentability weight in the absence of a showing that such claimed intended uses result in a material difference in the claimed compositions.

Carpenter teaches diagnostic agents comprising a diagnostic metal and a compound, wherein the compound comprises: 1:10 targeting moieties; a chelator, and 0-1 linking groups between the targeting moiety and chelator; wherein the targeting moiety is a matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) inhibitor; and wherein the chelator is capable of conjugating to the diagnostic metal (abstract and page 143, claim 1). Carpenter teaches that imaging agents targeted to one or more MMP's would be very useful in detecting and monitoring the degree of extracellular matrix degradation in congestive heart failure, atherosclerosis and other degradative disease processes and these imaging agents, containing a ligand directed at one or more MMP, will localize a diagnostic imaging probe to the site of pathology for the purpose of non-invasive imaging of these diseases (page 5, lines 8-15).

With regard to instant claims 1, 2, 4 and 16-17, Carpenter teaches the details of targeting molecules in his inventions that are MMP inhibitors which are structurally similar to the instantly claimed compounds of formula (I) (page 143-150, claims 4-12

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and page 176-188, claims 53-68). For example, one of the compounds claimed in claim 31 is as follows:



Wherein:

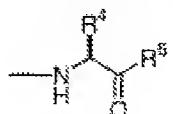
R is independently OH or -CH₂SH;

R¹ is independently selected at each occurrence from the group:
H, OH, C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₂₋₃ alkenyl, C₂₋₃ alkynyl, and
heterocycle-S-CH₂-;

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R² is independently C₁-20 alkyl;

X is independently C=O or SO₂, provided when X is C=O, R³ is



, and when X is SO₂, R³ is independently selected from the group: aryl substituted with 0-2 R⁶, and heterocycle substituted with 0-2 R⁶;

R⁴ is independently selected at each occurrence from the group: C₁-6 alkyl, phenyl, and benzyl;

R⁵ is independently at each occurrence from the group: NH(C₁-6 alkyl), NH-phenyl, and NH-heterocycle; wherein said alkyl, phenyl and heterocycle groups are optionally substituted with a bond to L₈;

R⁶ is independently acyloxy substituted with 0-3 R⁷;

R⁷ is independently halogen or methoxy;

With regards to claim 5 Carpenter teaches that the imaging agent may be a MMP inhibitor linked to radioisotope which are known to be useful for imaging by gamma scintigraphy or positron emission tomography (PET) (page 6, lines 15-18).

With regards to instant claims 6-9 Carpenter teaches a diagnostic agent according having the formula

(Q)d~Ln~Ch

Where Q is the compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib) which is the matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor; Ln is a linking group and Ch is a metal bonding unit (chelator) which binds to the (pages 163-171, claim 31).

With regards to instant claims 8, 10 Carpenter teaches the diagnostic agent wherein the diagnostic metal is selected from a group consisting of a paramagnetic metal, a ferromagnetic metal, a gamma-emitting radioisotope or an X-ray absorber (page 174, claim 36) and teaches wherein the diagnostic metal is radioisotope selected from the group consisting of ^{99m}Tc , ^{95}Tc , ^{111}In , ^{62}Cu , ^{64}Cu , ^{67}Ga and ^{68}Ga . (page 174, claims 37-40).

With regards to instant claims 12, although Carpenter does not explicitly teach the limitations of instant claims 12, Carpenter's teachings of using a radioisotope useful for imaging by gamma scintigraphy or positron emission tomography (page 6, line 15-18) renders this claim obvious.

With regards to instant claims 18-21 Carpenter teaches a diagnostic composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier (page 175, claim 43)

With regards to claims 22-26 Carpenter teaches groups which can be used as linkers between the targeting moieties and the chelator (pages 150-155, claims 13-22) and the chelator with a metal bonding units (page 155-163, claims 23-30) which can be used in his invention.

With regards to instant claims 27-33 Carpenter teaches a kit comprising a compound of Claim 1, with one or more ancillary ligands and a reducing agent (page

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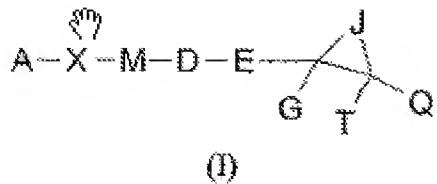
175, claims 44-47). Although Carpenter does not teach the exclusive limitations of instant claims 27-33, Carpenter teaches the kit comprising of a ligand and a reducing agent and it is obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art to generate a kit with the components required for generation of the final product.

With regards to instant claims 34-36 Carpenter teaches a method of detecting, imaging or monitoring atherosclerosis in a patient by administering a diagnostic agent of claim 1 and acquiring an image of the site of concentration of said diagnostic agent (page 204, claims 95-98).

Accordingly, Carpenter provides one of ordinary skill in the art motivation to prepare an imaging agent by synthesizing compounds structurally similar to those taught by carpenter, attach an imaging moiety to the compound with or without a linker, prepare compositions and kits of the imaging agent and use it in the diagnosis of cardiovascular diseases especially atherosclerosis.

Mobashery also teaches compounds that inhibit matrix metalloproteinase *in vivo* and *in vitro*; and a method for imaging a tumor *vivo* or *vitro* (abstract).

With regards to instant claims 1,2, 4, 16 and 17 Mobashery teaches compounds of formula (I)



wherein

A-X-M is a hydrophobic group;

D is O, S, (C_1 - C_6)alkyl, a direct bond, SO_2 , SO , $C(=O)NR$, $C(=O)O$, $NRC(=O)$, or $OC(=O)$;

E is a direct bond, (C_1 - C_6)alkyl, (C_3 - C_8)cycloalkyl, (C_2 - C_6)alkenyl, or (C_2 - C_6)alkynyl, wherein any alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl of E is optionally substituted with one or more (C_1 - C_6)alkyl, hydroxy, (C_1 - C_6)alkoxy, cyano, nitro, halo, SR, NRR, or COOR, wherein each R is independently H or (C_1 - C_6)alkyl;

J is S or O;

G, T, and Q are each independently H, (C_1 - C_6)alkyl, or cyano; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

which are structurally related to the instantly claimed compounds (pages 44-45, claims 1-4).

With regards to instant claims 5, 8, 10 and 12 Mobashery teaches that the radiolabeled compounds of formula (I) are also useful as imaging agents for imaging cells comprising MMP's. Accordingly, the invention also provides compounds of formula (I) that include one or more detectable radionuclides which can be incorporated into the compound by replacing an atom of the compound of formula(I) with a radionuclide (e.g. nonmetallic radionuclide) or the radiolabeled compound can be prepared by linking a compound of formula (I) to a chelating group that includes a detectable radionuclide which renders these claims obvious (page 20, lines 8-19; pages 48-48, claims 25-30).

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Mobashery teaches the "detectable radionuclide" as any suitable radionuclide useful in a diagnostic procedure in vivo or in vitro and suitable detectable radionuclides include metallic radionuclides and non-metallic radionuclides (page 21, lines 3-7) Mobashery additionally teaches that the non-metallic radionuclide can be a non-metallic paramagnetic atom (e.g., Fluorine-19); or a non-metallic positron emitting radionuclide (e.g., Carbon-11, Iodine-123) (page 20, lines 31-33) (page 49-50, claims 25-30)

With regards to instant claims 6-9 Mobashery teaches that the "chelating group" is a group that includes a detectable radionuclide and any suitable chelating group can be employed. In addition Mobashery provides several references which disclose suitable chelating groups (page 20, lines 19—page 21, line 2).

With regards to instant claims 18-21 Mobashery teaches the pharmaceutical compositions of the compounds of formula (I) that comprises a radiolabeled compound of formula (I) and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier (page 5, lines 25-27 and page 26, lines 6-13, page 49, claim 24 and page 50, claim 31).

With regards to instant claims 22-26 Mobashery teaches a combination of the compound of his invention with a chelating group comprising a detectable radionuclide (page 50, claim 28).

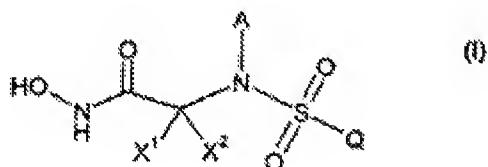
With regards to instant claims 34-36 Mobashery also provides a compound of formula (I) that comprises a radionuclide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for use in medical diagnosis which includes processes involving modulation of MMP activity such as angiogenesis, inflammation, cardiovascular diseases etc. (page 6, lines 5-10).

Accordingly Mobashery provides one of ordinary skills in the art motivation to develop matrix metalloproteinase inhibitors conjugated to a detectable moiety for use in diagnosis of diseases associated with MMP activity.

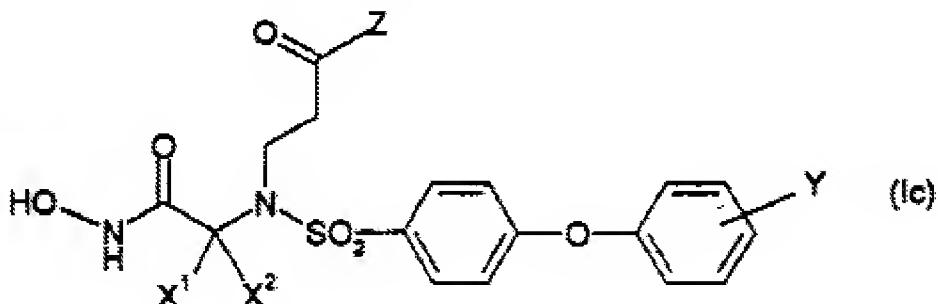
What both Carpenter and Mobashery do not teach is the radio labeling of the specific matrix metalloproteinase inhibitors of the formula recited in the instant claims.

This deficiency is cured by the teachings of Sahagan et al.

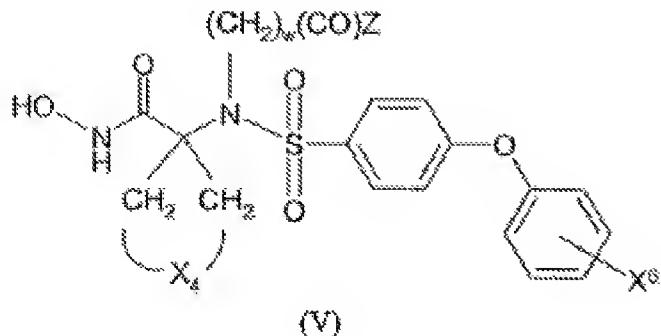
Sahagan teaches methods of using a compound of formula (I) (abstract, claim 1, page).



Substituents for the variables in the formula (I) above as taught by Sahagan reads on the matrix metalloproteinase inhibitors claimed in the instant applications. Sahagan teaches that one preferred methods of the invention comprise the administration of the formula (Ic) below (lines 1-10, page 5):



this is structurally similar to the instantly claimed compound (V)



Sahagan teaches that the compounds of his invention are inhibitors of zinc matrix metalloendopeptidases especially those belonging to the matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) (page 2, paragraph [0002]) and can be used to treat several diseases which are characterized by metalloproteinase activity (page 10, paragraph [0045]). Accordingly, Sahagan is drawn to the same class of compounds disclosed in Carpenter and Mobashery.

Sahagan teaches that the method of treatment as per his invention also includes isotopically-labeled compounds, which are identical to those recited in formula (I), but for the fact that one or more atoms are replaced by an atom having an atomic mass or mass number different from the atomic mass or mass number usually found in nature. Additionally, Sahagan teaches that the compounds relating to the present invention, prodrugs thereof, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of said compounds or of said prodrugs which contain the isotopes are within the scope of his invention (page 10, paragraph [0043]).

The differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. It would have been *prima facie* obvious to the skilled artisan to develop diagnostic imaging agents comprising a matrix metalloproteinase inhibitors taught by Sahagan conjugated to an imaging moiety as taught by Carpenter or Mobashery. An ordinarily skilled artisan would have been motivated to use matrix metalloproteinase inhibitors compound taught in the prior art and conjugate it to a radioactive imaging moiety through a linker or a chelator for use in diagnosis of cardiovascular diseases since the prior art as taught by Carpenter and Mobashery have already shown that these compounds can be successfully used for diagnostic purposes when conjugated to an imaging moiety. Furthermore, using the imaging agents to develop a pharmaceutical composition or kit would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention since the prior art teaches compositions and kits developed using similar compounds.

A skilled artisan will be able to develop such a dosage form with a reasonable expectation of success based on the state of the art at the time of invention in order to provide imaging agents comprising a matrix metalloproteinase inhibitors conjugated to an imaging moiety for diagnosis of cardiovascular diseases, since the imaging of MMP's in the heart would be useful for the localization and monitoring the progression/regression of a variety of cardiac diseases which are associated with alterations in the MMP content of the cardiac tissues.

Response to applicant's arguments filed on 10/07/2008:

Applicant traverses the above rejection with the following arguments:

Carpenter does not teach "structurally similar compounds to the instant application". Carpenter's teachings are very broad in scope and thereby the scope of "structurally similar to those taught by Carpenter" is thus very vast. Carpenter does not provide data which shows proof of concept for *in vivo* imaging.

Mobashery does not synthesize or test any radio-labeled compound and does not provide any showing of proof of concept for imaging.

Sahagan refers to medicaments for the treatment of a mammal, together with related prodrugs and the radioisotopes used by Sahagan is intrinsic to the molecule and ³H and ¹⁴C are not suitable for medical imaging.

Applicant's traversal arguments for this rejection have been fully considered, but are not found to be persuasive.

With respect to arguments by the applicants about the structural similarity between the compounds taught by Carpenter and the instant application, Examiner finds the applicant's argument partially persuasive. While agreeing with the Applicant's that the compounds of Carpenter are not structurally identical to the instantly claimed compounds, Examiner would like to point out they are functionally equivalent since they are both matrix metalloproteinase inhibitors and possess a similar skeletal structure. Carpenter also explicitly teaches a diagnostic agent comprising a diagnostic metal and a compound where in the compound comprises a matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor and a chelator which reads on the instantly claimed imaging agent. In combination with Sahagan who teaches the instantly claimed compound as matrix metalloproteinase

inhibitors an ordinarily skilled artisan would be motivated utilize the compound taught by Sahagan in the diagnostic imaging agent taught by Carpenter thus arriving at the instantly taught imaging agent.

With reference to applicant's arguments against Mobashery, Examiner would like to point out that Mobashery also teaches matrix metalloproteinase inhibitors and a method of imaging a tumor *in-vivo* and *in-vitro*. Mobashery teaches compounds which are structurally similar (not structurally identical) to instantly claimed compounds and teaches them as matrix metalloproteinase inhibitors. Mobashery also explicitly teaches that the radio-labeled compound of his invention can be prepared by linking a compound of formula (I) to a chelating group that includes a detectable radionuclide. In combination with Sahagan who teaches the instantly claimed compound as matrix metalloproteinase inhibitors an ordinarily skilled artisan would be motivated to utilize the compound taught by Sahagan in the diagnostic imaging agent taught by Mobashery thus arriving at the instantly taught imaging agent

With reference to applicant's arguments against Sahagan, Sahagan teaches the instantly claimed compounds also include isotopically-labeled compounds. While examiner agrees that the isotopes would be intrinsic to the molecule in Sahagan's invention, examiner disagrees with the Applicant's that C-14 is not suitable for medical imaging. C-14 is successfully used in the C-14 urea breath test where C-14 is used as a radioactive tracer to determine the presence of bacteria.

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections

are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). As such, Examiner on page 18 of the office action dated 07/08/2008, explicitly states that Carpenter and Mobashery do not teach the radio-labeling of the specific matrix metalloproteinase inhibitors of the formulas recited in the instant claims. It is the teachings of Carpenter or Mobashery when taken in combination with Sahagan render the instant claims obvious.

It is noted that , “[w]hen a patent simply arranges old elements with each performing the same function it had been known to perform and yields no more than one would expect from such an arrangement, the combination is obvious”. KSR v. Teleflex, 127 S.Ct. 1727, 1740 (2007)(quoting Sakraida v. A.G. Pro, 425 U.S. 273, 282 (1976). “[W]hen the question is whether a patent claiming the combination of elements of prior art is obvious”, the relevant question is “whether the improvement is more than the predictable use of prior art elements according to their established functions.” (Id.). Addressing the issue of obviousness, the Supreme Court noted that the analysis under 35 USC 103 “need not seek out precise teachings directed to the specific subject matter of the challenged claim, for a court can take account of the inferences and creative steps that a person of ordinary skill in the art would employ.” KSR v. Teleflex, 127 S.Ct. 1727, 1741 (2007). The Court emphasized that “[a] person of ordinary skill is... a person of ordinary creativity, not an automaton.” Id. at 1742. Consistent with this reasoning, it would have obvious to for a person of ordinary skill to utilize the teachings of Carpenter and Sahagan and combine them to arrive at the instantly claimed imaging agents.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., the *in-vivo* testing data or the method of synthesis of the radio-labeled agent) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Accordingly, applicant's argument against Carpenter and Mobashery that the references fails to provide *in-vivo* proof of concept and does not provides synthetic procedures for preparation of the radio-labeled imaging agents are considered moot.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988)and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Carpenter and Mobashery explicitly teach diagnostic agents of matrix metalloproteinase inhibitors in combination with a chelator through a linker for diagnosis or treatment of cardiovascular conditions. Sahagan teaches instantly claimed compounds as matrix metalloproteinase inhibitors which can be radio-labeled. Accordingly an ordinarily skilled artisan will be motivated to combine the teachings of Carpenter and Mobashery with that of Sahagan to arrive at the instantly claimed imaging agent with a reasonable expectation of

success based on the state of the art at the time of invention in order to provide imaging agents comprising a matrix metalloproteinase inhibitors conjugated to an imaging moiety for diagnosis of cardiovascular diseases, since the imaging of MMP's in the heart would be useful for the localization and monitoring the progression/regression of a variety of cardiac diseases which are associated with alterations in the MMP content of the cardiac tissues.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

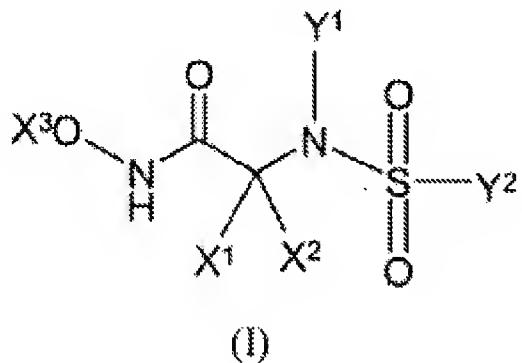
An obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but an examined application claim not is patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

Claims 1-2, 4-10, 13 and 16-31 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1-21, 24-28, 30-31, 35 of copending Application No. 10544945 (copending '945). Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because instant claim 1 is generic to the compound that is recited in claim 1 of copending '945. That is, claim 1 if copending '945 falls entirely within the scope of claim 1 or, in other words, instant claim 1 is anticipated by claim 1 of copending '945.

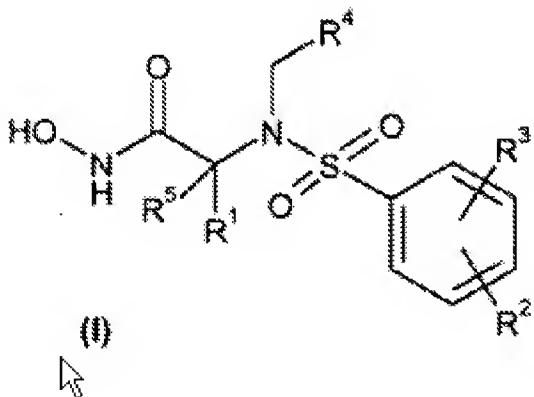
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Specifically, the compound of claim 1 of the copending '945 is the compound of instant claim 1 where in the formula $[A^1]_p[O]_qA^2$ for $Y^2 p=0$ and $q=0$ and A^2 is C_{6-10} aryl. Instant claims compare to the copending '945 as follows:

1. Claims 1-4, 6 and 14-17 of instant application are drawn to an imaging agent which comprises a metalloproteinase inhibitor of general Formula (I) (shown below) labeled with an imaging moiety.



Claim 1-4 of co-pending '945 recites a diagnostic imaging agent which comprises a matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor of formula I (shown below) labeled with a γ -emitting radionuclide.



The specific compound claimed in the composition of claims 1-18 of copending '945 is a specie of the genus of compounds claimed in the composition of instant claims 1-2, 4-10, 13, 16-19 and 22-26.

2. In the instant application claims 5, 7 and 10 recites the specifics of the imaging moiety of the imaging agent claimed in instant claim 1. Claims 5, 7-9, 10-14 of copending '945 recites similar limitations with reference to the imaging moiety of the diagnostic imaging agent claimed in copending '945 claim 1.

3. Claims 8-9, 22-26 of the instant application recites the limitations with reference to the ligand and the conjugate of imaging agent claimed in instant claim 1. Claims 15-18 of copending '945 recites similar limitations with reference to the ligand and the conjugate of diagnostic imaging agent claimed in copending '945 claim 1.

4. Claims 18-21 of the instant application are drawn towards pharmaceutical or radiopharmaceutical compositions which comprises the imaging agent of instant claim 1. Claims 19-21 of copending '945 are drawn towards a pharmaceutical composition comprising the diagnostic imaging agent of copending '945 claim 1.

5. Claims 27, 29-31 of the instant application are drawn to a kit for the preparation of the radiopharmaceutical composition of instant claims 20-21. Claims 24-28 and 35 of copending '945 are drawn to a kit for the preparation of the pharmaceutical composition of copending claims 19-20.

Therefore subject matter disclosed in claims 1-2, 4-10, 13 and 16-31 of the instant application is fully taught in claims 1-21, 24-28 and 35 of copending '945 and are hereby rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

Conclusion

Claims 1-2, 4-10, 13, 16-31 and 33 are rejected. No claims are allowed

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SAVITHA RAO whose telephone number is (571)270-5315. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7.00 am to 4.00 pm..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ardin Marschel can be reached on 571-272-0718. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/SAVITHA RAO/

Examiner, Art Unit 1614

/Ardin Marschel/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1614